

THE HOMERIC *HYMN TO DEMETER*

Demeter I begin to sing,* the fair-tressed awesome goddess, 1
herself and her slim-ankled daughter whom Aidoneus**
seized; Zeus, heavy-thundering and mighty-voiced, gave her,
without the consent of Demeter of the bright fruit and golden
sword,
as she played with the deep-breasted daughters of Ocean, 5
plucking flowers in the lush meadow—roses, crocuses,
and lovely violets, irises and hyacinth and the narcissus,
which Earth grew as a snare for the flower-faced maiden
in order to gratify by Zeus's design the Host-to-Many,**
a flower wondrous and bright, awesome for all to see, 10
for the immortals above and for mortals below.
From its root a hundredfold bloom sprang up and smelled
so sweet that the whole vast heaven above
and the whole earth laughed, and the salty swell of the sea.
The girl marveled and stretched out both hands at once 15
to take the lovely toy. The earth with its wide ways yawned
over the Nysian plain; the lord Host-to-Many rose up on her
with his immortal horses, the celebrated son of Kronos;
he snatched the unwilling maid into his golden chariot
and led her off lamenting. She screamed with a shrill voice, 20
calling on her father, the son of Kronos highest and best.
Not one of the immortals or of humankind
heard her voice, nor the olives bright with fruit,
except the daughter of Persaios; tender of heart
she heard it from her cave, Hekate of the delicate veil. 25
And lord Helios, brilliant son of Hyperion, heard
the maid calling her father the son of Kronos. But he sat apart
from the gods, aloof in a temple ringing with prayers,
and received choice offerings from humankind.

* The following divine genealogy will assist the reader in following the text. Gaia (Earth) and Ouranos (Sky) are the parents of Rheia and Kronos, who are in turn parents of Zeus, Hades, and Demeter. Zeus and Hades are thus both sons of Kronos. Demeter and Zeus are the parents of Korê/Persephone.

** Hades

ΥΜΝΟΣ ΕΙΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΑ

Δήμητρε' ἡύκομον σεμνήν θεὸν ἄρχομ' αἰεδεῖν, 1
αὐτὴν ἥδ' ἐ θύγατρα τανίσφυρον ἦν Ἀἰδωνεύς
ἦρπαξεν, δῶκεν δὲ βαρύκτυπος εὐρύοπα Ζεὺς,
νόσφιν Δήμητρος χρυσαόρου ἀγλαοκάρπου
παίζουσιν κούρησι σὺν Ὠκεανοῦ βαθυκόλποις, 5
ἄνθεά τ' αἰνυμένην ῥόδα καὶ κρόκον ἥδ' ἴα καλὰ
λειμῶν' ἄμ μαλακὸν καὶ ἀγαλλίδας ἥδ' ὑάκινθον
νάρκισσόν θ', ὃν φύσε δόλον καλυκώπιδι κούρη
Γαῖα Διὸς βουλῇσι χαριζομένη πολυδέκτη
θαυμαστὸν γανώοντα, σέβας τό γε πᾶσιν ιδέσθαι 10
ἀθανάτοις τε θεοῖς ἥδ' ἐ θνητοῖς ἀνθρώποις·
τοῦ καὶ ἀπὸ ῥίξης ἑκατὸν κάρα ἐξεπεφύκει,
†κῶδιστ' ὀδυῖται πᾶς δ' οὐρανὸς εὐρὺς ὑπερθε
γαῖά τε πᾶς' ἐγέλασσε καὶ ἄλμυρόν οἶδμα θαλάσσης.
ἥ δ' ἄρα θαμβήσας ὠρέξατο χερσὶν ἄμ' ἄμφω 15
καλὸν ἄθυρμα λαβεῖν· χάνει δὲ χθὼν εὐρυάγυια
Νύσιον ἄμ πεδίον τῇ ὄρουσεν ἄναξ πολυδέγμων
ἵπποις ἀθανάτοισι Κρόνου πολυώνυμος υἱός.
ἀρπάξας δ' ἀέκουσαν ἐπὶ χρυσέοισιν ὄχοισιν
ἦγ' ὀλοφυρομένην· ἰάχῃσιν δ' ἄρ' ὄρθια φωνῇ 20
κεκλομένη πατέρα Κρονίδην ὑπατον καὶ ἄριστον.
οὐδέ τις ἀθανάτων οὐδ' ἐ θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων
ἤκουσεν φωνῆς, οὐδ' ἀγλαόκαρποι ἐλαῖαι,
εἰ μὴ Περσαίου θυγάτηρ ἀταλὰ φρονέουσα
ἄϊεν ἐξ ἄντρου Ἑκάτη λιπαροκρήδεμνος, 25
Ἥελιός τε ἄναξ Ὑπερίωνος ἀγλαὸς υἱός,
κούρης κεκλομένης πατέρα Κρονίδην· ὁ δὲ νόσφιν
ἦστο θεῶν ἀπάνευθε πολυλλίστῳ ἐνὶ νηῷ
δέγμενος ἱερὰ καλὰ παρὰ θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων.

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Against her will Hades took her by the design of Zeus 30
 with his immortal horses—her father's brother,
 Commander- and Host-to-Many, the many-named son of Kronos.
 So long as the goddess gazed on earth and starry heaven,
 on the sea flowing strong and full of fish,
 and on the beams of the sun, she still hoped 35
 to see her dear mother and the race of immortal gods.
 For so long hope charmed her strong mind despite her distress.
 The mountain peaks and the depths of the sea echoed
 in response to her divine voice, and her goddess mother heard.
 Sharp grief seized her heart, and she tore the veil 40
 on her ambrosial hair with her own hands.
 She cast a dark cloak on her shoulders
 and sped like a bird over dry land and sea,
 searching. No one was willing to tell her the truth,
 not one of the gods or mortals; 45
 no bird of omen came to her as truthful messenger.
 Then for nine days divine Deo*** roamed over the earth,
 holding torches ablaze in her hands;
 in her grief she did not once taste ambrosia
 or nectar sweet-to-drink, nor bathed her skin. 50
 But when the tenth Dawn came shining on her,
 Hekate met her, holding a torch in her hands,
 to give her a message. She spoke as follows:
 "Divine Demeter, giver of seasons and glorious gifts,
 who of the immortals or mortal men 55
 seized Persephone and grieved your heart?
 For I heard a voice but did not see with my eyes
 who he was. To you I tell at once the whole truth."
 Thus Hekate spoke. The daughter of fair-tressed Rheia***
 said not a word, but rushed off at her side 60
 holding torches ablaze in her hands.
 They came to Helios, observer of gods and mortals,
 and stood before his horses. The most august goddess*** spoke:
 "Helios, respect me as a god does a goddess, if ever
 with word or deed I pleased your heart and spirit. 65
 The daughter I bore, a sweet offshoot noble in form—
 I heard her voice throbbing through the barren air

*** Demeter

τὴν δ' ἀεκαζομένην ἤγεν Διὸς ἐννεσίῃσι 30
 πατροκασίγνητος πολυσημάντωρ πολυδέγμων
 ἵπποις ἀθανάτοισι Κρόνου πολυώνυμος υἱός.
 ὄφρα μὲν οὖν γαῖάν τε καὶ οὐρανὸν ἀστερόεντα
 λεῦσσε θεὰ καὶ πόντον ἀγάρροον ἰχθυόεντα 35
 αὐγὰς τ' ἡελίου, ἔτι δ' ἤλπετο μητέρα κεδνὴν
 ὄψεσθαι καὶ φύλα θεῶν αἰειγενετάων,
 τόφρα οἱ ἐλπίς ἔθελγε μέγαν νόον ἀχνυμένης περ.
 ἤχησαν δ' ὀρέων κορυφαὶ καὶ βένθεα πόντου
 φωνῇ ὑπ' ἀθανάτῃ, τῆς ἔκλυε πότνια μήτηρ.
 ὄξυ δέ μιν κραδίην ἄχος ἔλλαβεν, ἀμφὶ δὲ χαίταις 40
 ἀμβροσίαις κρήδεμνα δαΐζετο χερσὶ φίλῃσι,
 κυάνεον δὲ κάλυμμα κατ' ἀμφοτέρων βάλετ' ὦμων,
 σεύατο δ' ὥς τ' οἰωνὸς ἐπὶ τραφερὴν τε καὶ ὕγρην
 μαιομένη· τῇ δ' οὐ τις ἐτήτυμα μυθήσασθαι 45
 ἤθελεν οὔτε θεῶν οὔτε θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων,
 οὔτ' οἰωνῶν τις τῇ ἐτήτυμος ἄγγελος ἦλθεν.
 ἐννήμαρ μὲν ἔπειτα κατὰ χθόνα πότνια Δῆω
 στρωφάτ' αἰθομένας δαΐδας μετὰ χερσὶν ἔχουσα,
 οὐδὲ ποτ' ἀμβροσίης καὶ νέκταρος ἡδυπότοιο 50
 πάσσαι' ἀκηχεμένη, οὐδὲ χρόα βάλλετο λουτροῖς.
 ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ δεκάτῃ οἱ ἐπήλυθε φαινόλις Ἡώς,
 ἦντετό οἱ Ἑκάτῃ σέλας ἐν χεῖρεσσιν ἔχουσα,
 καὶ ῥά οἱ ἀγγελέουσα ἔπος φάτο φώνησέν τε·
 Πότνια Δημήτηρ ὠρηφόρε ἀγλαόδωρε 55
 τίς θεῶν οὐρανίων ἦε θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων
 ἤρπασε Περσεφόνην καὶ σὸν φίλον ἥκαχε θυμόν;
 φωνῆς γὰρ ἤκουσ', ἀτὰρ οὐκ ἶδον ὀφθαλμοῖσιν
 ὅς τις ἔην· σοὶ δ' ὦκα λέγω νημερτέα πάντα.
 Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη Ἑκάτῃ· τὴν δ' οὐκ ἡμείβετο μύθῳ 60
 Ῥεῖης ἡϋκόμου θυγάτηρ, ἀλλ' ὦκα σὺν αὐτῇ
 ἥϊξ' αἰθομένας δαΐδας μετὰ χερσὶν ἔχουσα.
 Ἥελιον δ' ἵκοντο θεῶν σκοπὸν ἠδὲ καὶ ἀνδρῶν,
 στὰν δ' ἵππων προπάροιθε καὶ εἵρετο διὰ θεάων·
 Ἥέλι' αἰδεσσαί με θεὰν θεός, εἰ ποτε δὴ σευ 65
 ἦ ἔπει ἢ ἔργῳ κραδίην καὶ θυμόν ἴηνα.
 κούρην τὴν ἔτεκον γλυκερὸν θάλος εἶδει κυδρὴν
 τῆς ἀδινὴν ὅπ' ἄκουσα δι' αἰθέρος ἀτρυγέτοιο

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as if she were suffering violence. But I did not see her with my eyes.
 With your rays you look down through the bright air
 on the whole of the earth and the sea. 70
 Tell me the truth about my child. Have you somewhere
 seen who of gods or mortal men took her
 by force from me against her will and went away?"
 Thus she spoke and the son of Hyperion replied:
 "Daughter of fair-tressed Rheia, mighty Demeter, 75
 you will know the truth. For I greatly revere and pity you
 grieving for your slim-ankled daughter. No other
 of the gods was to blame but cloud-gathering Zeus,
 who gave her to Hades his brother to be called
 his fertile wife. With his horses Hades 80
 snatched her screaming into the misty gloom.
 But, Goddess, give up for good your great lamentation.
 You must not nurse in vain insatiable anger.
 Among the gods Aidoneus is not an unsuitable bridegroom,
 Commander-to-Many and Zeus's own brother of the same stock. 85
 As for honor, he got his third at the world's first division
 and dwells with those whose rule has fallen to his lot."
 He spoke and called to his horses. At his rebuke
 they bore the swift chariot lightly, like long-winged birds.
 A more terrible and brutal grief seized the heart 90
 of Demeter, angry now at the son of Kronos with his dark clouds.
 Withdrawing from the assembly of the gods and high Olympus,
 she went among the cities and fertile fields of men,
 disguising her beauty for a long time. No one of men
 nor deep-girt women recognized her when they looked, 95
 until she came to the house of skillful Keleos,
 the man then ruler of fragrant Eleusis.
 There she sat near the road, grief in her heart,
 where citizens drew water from the Maiden's Well
 in the shade—an olive bush had grown overhead— 100
 like a very old woman cut off from childbearing
 and the gifts of garland-loving Aphrodite.
 Such are the nurses to children of law-giving kings
 and the keepers of stores in their echoing halls.
 The daughters of Keleos, son of Eleusis, saw her 105
 as they came to fetch water easy-to-draw and bring it
 in bronze vessels to their dear father's halls.

ὥς τε βιαζομένης, ἀτὰρ οὐκ ἶδον ὀφθαλμοῖσιν.
 ἀλλὰ σὺ γὰρ δὴ πᾶσαν ἐπὶ χθόνα καὶ κατὰ πόντον
 αἰθέρος ἐκ δίης καταδέρκεαι ἀκτίνεσσι, 70
 νημερτέως μοι ἔνισπε φίλον τέκος εἴ που ὄπωπας
 ὅς τις νόσφιν ἐμείο λαβὼν ἀέκουσαν ἀνάγκη
 οἴχεται ἢ θεῶν ἢ καὶ θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων.
 Ὡς φάτο, τὴν δ' Ὑπεριονίδης ἡμείβετο μύθῳ·
 ῥεῖς ἡϋκόμου θυγάτηρ Δήμητερ ἄνασσα 75
 εἰδήσεις· δὴ γὰρ μέγα ἄζομαι ἡδ' ἐλεαίρω
 ἄχθυμένην περὶ παιδί τανισφύρῳ· οὐδέ τις ἄλλος
 αἴτιος ἀθανάτων εἰ μὴ νεφεληγερέτα Ζεὺς,
 ὅς μιν ἔδωκ' Αἴδη θαλερὴν κεκλησθαι ἄκοιτιν
 αὐτοκασιγνήτῳ· ὁ δ' ὑπὸ ζόφον ἠερόεντα 80
 ἄρπάξας ἵπποισιν ἄγεν μεγάλα ἰάχουσιν.
 ἀλλὰ θεὰ κατάπαυε μέγαν γόον· οὐδέ τί σε χρὴ
 μὰς αὐτῶς ἅπλητον ἔχειν χόλον· οὐ τοι ἀεικῆς
 γαμβρὸς ἐν ἀθανάτοις πολυσημάντῳ Ἀἰδωνεύς
 αὐτοκασίγνητος καὶ ὁμόσπορος· ἀμφὶ δὲ τιμὴν 85
 ἔλλαχεν ὥς τὰ πρῶτα διάτριχα δασμὸς ἐτύχθη·
 τοῖς μεταναιετάει τῶν ἔλλαχε κοῖρανος εἶναι.
 Ὡς εἰπὼν ἵπποισιν ἐκέκλετο, τοὶ δ' ὑπ' ὁμοκλῆς
 ῥίμφα φέρον θοὸν ἄρμα τανύπτεροι ὥς τ' οἰωνοί·
 τὴν δ' ἄχος αἰνότερον καὶ κύντερον ἵκετο θυμόν. 90
 χωσαμένη δῆπεια κελαινεφεῖ Κρονίωνι
 νοσφισθεῖσα θεῶν ἀγορὴν καὶ μακρὸν Ὀλυμπον
 ὦχετ' ἐπ' ἀνθρώπων πόλιας καὶ πίονα ἔργα
 εἶδος ἀμαλδύνουσα πολὺν χρόνον· οὐδέ τις ἀνδρῶν
 εἰσορόων γίνωσκε βαθυζώνων τε γυναικῶν, 95
 πρίν γ' ὅτε δὴ Κελεοῖο δαίφρονος ἵκετο δῶμα,
 ὃς τότε Ἑλευσῖνος θυοέσσης κοῖρανος ἦεν.
 ἔζετο δ' ἐγγὺς ὁδοῖο φίλον τετιμημένη ἦτορ
 Παρθενίῳ φρέατι ὅθεν ὕδρευόντο πολῖται
 ἐν σκιῇ, αὐτὰρ ὑπερθε πεφύκει θάμνος ἐλαῖης, 100
 γρηὶ παλαιγενεῖ ἐναλγίκιος, ἥ τε τόκοιο
 εἰργηται δώρων τε φιλοστεφάνου Ἀφροδίτης,
 οἶαί τε τροφοί εἰσι θεμιστοπόλων βασιλῆων
 παίδων καὶ ταμίαι κατὰ δώματα ἠχῆεντα.
 τὴν δὲ ἶδον Κελεοῖο Ἑλευσινίδαο θύγατρως 105
 ἐρχόμεναι μεθ' ὕδωρ εὐήρυτον ὄφρα φέροιεν
 κάλπισι χαλκείησι φίλα πρὸς δώματα πατρός,

Like four goddesses they were in the flower of youth,
 Kallidikê, Kleisidikê, fair Demo, and Kallithoê,
 who was the eldest of them all. 110
 They did not know her—gods are hard for mortals to recognize.
 Standing near her, they spoke winged words.
 “Who are you, old woman, of those born long ago?
 From where? Why have you left the city and do not
 draw near its homes? Women are there in the shadowy halls, 115
 of your age as well as others born younger,
 who would care for you both in word and in deed.”
 They spoke, and the most august goddess replied:
 “Dear children, whoever of womankind you are,
 greetings. I will tell you my tale. For it is not wrong 120
 to tell you the truth now you ask.
 Doso’s my name, which my honored mother gave me.
 On the broad back of the sea I have come now from Crete,
 by no wish of my own. By force and necessity pirate men
 led me off against my desire. Then they 125
 put into Thorikos in their swift ship, where
 the women stepped all together onto the mainland,
 and the men made a meal by the stern of the ship.
 My heart did not crave a heartwarming dinner,
 but racing in secret across the dark mainland 130
 I escaped from my arrogant masters, lest
 they should sell me, as yet unbought, for a price overseas.
 Then wandering I came here and know not at all
 what land this is and who lives here.
 But may all the gods who dwell on Olympus 135
 give you husbands to marry and children to bear,
 such as parents wish for. Now pity me, maidens,
 and tell me, dear children, with eager goodwill,
 whose house I might come to, a man’s
 or a woman’s, there to do for them gladly
 such tasks as are done by an elderly woman. 140
 I could nurse well a newborn child, embracing it
 in my arms, or watch over a house. I could
 spread out the master’s bed in a recess
 of the well-built chamber and teach women their work.”
 So spoke the goddess. To her replied at once Kallidikê, 145
 a maiden unwed, in beauty the best of Keleos’ daughters.

τέσσαρες ὥς τε θεαὶ κουρήϊον ἄνθος ἔχουσαι,
 Καλλιδικὴ καὶ Κλεισιδικὴ Δημῶ τ' ἐρόεσσα
 Καλλιθόη θ', ἣ τῶν προγενεστάτῃ ἦεν ἀπασῶν· 110
 οὐδ' ἔγνω· χαλεποὶ δὲ θεοὶ θνητοῖσιν ὄρᾳσθαι.
 ἀγχοῦ δ' ἰστάμεναι ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδων·

Τίς πόθεν ἐσσί γρηῦ παλαιγενέων ἀνθρώπων;
 τίπτε δὲ νόσφι πόλῃος ἀπέστιχες οὐδὲ δόμοισι
 πίλνασαι, ἔνθα γυναιῖκες ἀνὰ μέγα ἄρα σκιάοντα 115
 τηλίκαι ὥς σύ περ ὧδε καὶ ὀπλότεραι γεγάασιν,
 αἱ κέ σε φίλωνται ἡμὲν ἔπει ἡδὲ καὶ ἔργω;

ὦς ἔφαθ', ἣ δ' ἐπέεσσιν ἀμείβετο πότνα θεάων·
 τέκνα φίλ', αἱ τινές ἐστε γυναικῶν θηλυτεράων
 χαίρετ', ἐγὼ δ' ὑμῖν μυθήσομαι· οὐ τοι αἰεὶ κῆς 120
 ὑμῖν εἰρομένησιν ἀληθέα μυθήσασθαι.

Δωσὼ ἐμοί γ' ὄνομ' ἐστί· τὸ γὰρ θέτο πότνια μήτηρ·
 νῦν αὖτε Κρήτηθεν ἐπ' εὐρέα νῶτα θαλάσσης
 ἦλυθον οὐκ ἐθέλουσα, βίη δ' ἀέκουσαν ἀνάγκη 125
 ἄνδρες ληϊστῆρες ἀπήγαγον· οἱ μὲν ἔπειτα
 νηὶ θοῇ Θορικὸν δὲ κατέσχεθον, ἔνθα γυναιῖκες
 ἡπείρου ἐπέβησαν ἀολλέες ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 δεῖπνον ἐπηρτύνοντο παρὰ πρυμνήσια νηός·
 ἄλλ' ἐμοὶ οὐ δόρποιο μελίφρονος ἦρατο θυμός,
 λάθρη δ' ὀρμηθεῖσα δι' ἡπείροιο μελαίνης 130
 φεῦγον ὑπερφιάλους σημάντορας, ὄφρα κε μή με
 ἀπριάτην περάσαντες ἐμῆς ἀποναιάτο τιμῆς.
 οὕτω δεῦρ' ἰκόμην ἀλαλημένη, οὐδέ τι οἶδα
 ἢ τις δὴ γαῖ' ἐστὶ καὶ οἵ τινες ἐγγεγάασιν.
 ἀλλ' ὑμῖν μὲν πάντες Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχοντες 135
 δοῖεν κουριδίους ἄνδρας καὶ τέκνα τεκέσθαι
 ὥς ἐθέλουσι τοκῆς· ἐμὲ δ' αὖτ' οἰκτίρατε κοῦραι

προφρονέως φίλα τέκνα τέων πρὸς δώμαθ' ἵκωμαι
 ἄνερὸς ἡδὲ γυναικός, ἵνα σφίσιν ἐργάζωμαι
 πρόφρων οἷα γυναικὸς ἀφήλικος ἔργα τέτυκται· 140
 καὶ κεν παῖδα νεογνὸν ἐν ἀγκοίνῃσιν ἔχουσα
 καλὰ τιθηνόιμην καὶ δώματα τηρήσαιμι
 καὶ κε λέχος στορέσαιμι μυχῶ θαλάμων ἐϋπήκτων
 δεσπόσυνον καὶ κ' ἔργα διδασκῆσαιμι γυναικάς.

Φῆ ῥα θεά· τὴν δ' αὐτίκ' ἀμείβετο παρθένος Ἀδμής 145
 Καλλιδικὴ Κελεοῖο θυγατρῶν εἶδος ἀρίστη·

“Good mother, we mortals are forced, though it hurt us,
 to bear the gifts of the gods; for they are far stronger.
 To you I shall explain these things clearly and name
 the men to whom great power and honor belong here, 150
 who are first of the people and protect with their counsels
 and straight judgments the high walls of the city.
 There is Triptolemos subtle in mind and Dioklos,
 Polyxenos and Eumolpos the blameless,
 Dolichos and our own lordly father. 155
 And all these have wives to manage their households.
 Of these not one at first sight would scorn
 your appearance and turn you away from their homes.
 They will receive you, for you are indeed godlike.
 But if you wish, wait here, until we come to the house 160
 of our father and tell Metaneira our deep-girt mother
 all these things straight through, in case she might bid
 you come to our house and not search after others’.
 For her only son is now nursed in our well-built hall,
 a late-born child, much prayed for and cherished. 165
 If you might raise him to the threshold of youth,
 any woman who saw you would feel envy at once,
 such rewards for his rearing our mother will give you.”
 Thus they spoke and she nodded her head. The girls
 carried proudly bright jars filled with water and 170
 swiftly they reached the great house of their father.
 At once to their mother they told what they saw and heard.
 She bade them go quickly to offer a boundless wage.
 Just as hinds or heifers in the season of spring
 bound through the meadow sated with fodder, 175
 so they, lifting the folds of their shimmering robes,
 darted down the hollow wagon-track, and their hair
 danced on their shoulders like a crocus blossom.
 They found the famed goddess near the road
 just where they had left her. Then to the house 180
 of their father they led her. She, grieved in her heart,
 walked behind with veiled head. And her dark robe
 swirled round the slender feet of the goddess.
 They soon reached the house of god-cherished Keleos,
 and went through the portico to the place where 185
 their regal mother sat by the pillar of the close-fitted roof,

Μαῖα θεῶν μὲν δῶρα καὶ ἀχνύμενοί περ ἀνάγκη
 τέτλαμεν ἄνθρωποι· δὴ γὰρ πολὺν φέρτεροί εἰσιν.
 ταῦτα δέ τοι σαφέως ὑποθήσομαι ἥδ' ὀνομήνω
 ἀνέρας οἷσιν ἔπεστι μέγα κράτος ἐνθάδε τιμῆς, 150
 δήμου τε προὔχουσιν, ἰδὲ κρήδεμνα πόλῃος
 εἰρύαται βουλῇσι καὶ ἰθείῃσι δίκησιν.
 ἡμὲν Τριπτολέμου πυκιμήδεος ἥδὲ Διόκλου
 ἥδὲ Πολυξείνου καὶ ἀμύμονος Εὐμόλποιο
 καὶ Δολίχου καὶ πατρὸς ἀγήνορος ἡμετέροιο 155
 τῶν πάντων ἄλοχοι κατὰ δώματα πορσαίνουσι·
 τῶν οὐκ ἂν τίς σε κατὰ πρῶτιστον ὀπωπὴν
 εἶδος ἀτιμήσασα δόμων ἀπονοσφίσσειεν,
 ἀλλὰ σε δέξονται· δὴ γὰρ θεοεἰκελὸς ἔσσι.
 εἰ δ' ἐθέλεις, ἐπίμεινον, ἵνα πρὸς δώματα πατρὸς 160
 ἔλθωμεν καὶ μητρὶ βαθυζώνῃ Μεταναίρῃ
 εἴπωμεν τάδε πάντα διαμπερές, αἱ κέ σ' ἀνώγῃ
 ἡμέτερον δ' ἵεναι μηδ' ἄλλων δώματ' ἐρευνᾶν.
 τηλύγετος δέ οἱ υἱὸς ἐνὶ μεγάρῳ ἐϋπήκτῳ
 ὀψίγονος τρέφεται, πολυεύχετος ἀσπᾶσιός τε. 165
 εἰ τὸν γ' ἐκθρέψαιο καὶ ἥβης μέτρον ἵκοιτο
 ῥεῖα κέ τίς σε ἰδοῦσα γυναικῶν θηλυτεράων
 ζηλώσαι· τόσα κέν τοι ἀπὸ θρεπτῆρια δοίη.
 ὦς ἔφαθ'· ἡ δ' ἐπένευσε καρήατι, ταὶ δὲ φαινῶ
 πλησάμεναι ὕδατος φέρον ἄγγεα κυδιάουσαι. 170
 ῥίμφα δὲ πατρὸς ἵκοντο μέγαν δόμον, ὦκα δὲ μητρὶ
 ἔννεπον ὥς εἰδόν τε καὶ ἔκλυον. ἡ δὲ μάλ' ὦκα
 ἐλθούσας ἐκέλευε καλεῖν ἐπ' ἀπείροني μισθῷ.
 αἱ δ' ὥς τ' ἡ ἔλαφοι ἢ πόρτιες ἦαρος ὥρη
 ἄλλοντ' ἂν λειμῶνα κορεσσάμεναι φρένα φορβῇ, 175
 ὥς αἱ ἐπισχόμεναι ἐανῶν πτύχας ἱμεροέντων
 ἥϊξαν κοίλῃν κατ' ἀμαξιτόν, ἀμφὶ δὲ χαῖται
 ὤμοις αἴσσαντο κροκηΐῳ ἄνθει ὁμοῖαι.
 τέτμον δ' ἐγγὺς ὁδοῦ κυδρὴν θεὸν ἐνθα πάρος περ
 κάλλιπον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα φίλα πρὸς δώματα πατρὸς 180
 ἡγευνθ', ἡ δ' ἄρ' ὀπισθε φίλον τετιμημένη ἦτορ
 στεῖχε κατὰ κρῆθεν κεκαλυμμένη, ἀμφὶ δὲ πέπλος
 κυάνεος ῥαδινοῖσι θεᾷς ἐλελίζετο ποσσίν.
 αἴψα δὲ δώμαθ' ἵκοντο διοτρεφέος Κελεοῖο,
 βᾶν δὲ δι' αἰθούσης ἐνθα σφῖσι πότνια μήτηρ 185
 ἦστο παρὰ σταθμὸν τέγεος πύκα ποιητοῖο

holding on her lap the child, her young offshoot. To her
 they raced. But the goddess stepped on the threshold. Her head
 reached the roof and she filled the doorway with divine light.
 Reverence, awe, and pale fear seized Metaneira. 190
 She gave up her chair and bade the goddess sit down.
 But Demeter, bringer of seasons and giver of rich gifts,
 did not wish to be seated on the shining seat.
 She waited resistant, her lovely eyes cast down,
 until knowing Iambe set out a well-built stool 195
 for her and cast over it a silvery fleece.
 Seated there, the goddess drew the veil before her face.
 For a long time she sat voiceless with grief on the stool
 and responded to no one with word or gesture.
 Unsmiling, tasting neither food nor drink, 200
 she sat wasting with desire for her deep-girt daughter,
 until knowing Iambe jested with her and
 mocking with many a joke moved the holy goddess
 to smile and laugh and keep a gracious heart—
 Iambe, who later pleased her moods as well. 205
 Metaneira offered a cup filled with honey-sweet wine,
 but Demeter refused it. It was not right, she said,
 for her to drink red wine; then she bid them mix barley
 and water with soft mint and give her to drink.
 Metaneira made and gave the drink to the goddess as she bid. 210
 Almighty Deo received it for the sake of the rite.
 Well-girt Metaneira spoke first among them:
 “Hail, lady, for I suppose your parents are not lowborn,
 but noble. Your eyes are marked by modesty
 and grace, even as those of justice-dealing kings. 215
 We mortals are forced, though it may hurt us, to bear
 the gifts of the gods. For the yoke lies on our necks.
 But now you have come here, all that’s mine will be yours.
 Raise this child for me, whom the gods provided
 late-born and unexpected, much-prayed for by me. 220
 If you raise him and he comes to the threshold of youth,
 any woman who saw you would feel envy at once,
 such rewards for his rearing would I give you.”
 Rich-crowned Demeter addressed her in turn:
 “Hail also to you, lady, may the gods give you blessings. 225
 Gladly will I embrace the child as you bid me.

παῖδ' ὑπὸ κόλπῳ ἔχουσα νέον θάλος· αἱ δὲ παρ' αὐτὴν
 ἔδραμον, ἡ δ' ἄρ' ἐπ' οὐδὸν ἔβη ποσὶ καὶ ῥα μελάθρου
 κῦρε κάρη, πλησεν δὲ θύρας σέλαος θείοιο.
 τὴν δ' αἰδῶς τε σέβας τε ἰδὲ χλωρὸν δέος εἶλεν· 190
 εἶξε δέ οἱ κλισμοῖο καὶ ἐδριάσθαι ἄνωγεν.
 ἀλλ' οὐ Δημήτηρ ὠρηφόρος ἀγλαόδωρος
 ἤθελεν ἐδριάσθαι ἐπὶ κλισμοῖο φαινοῦ,
 ἀλλ' ἀκέουσα ἔμμινε κατ' ὄμματα καλὰ βαλοῦσα,
 πρίν γ' ὅτε δὴ οἱ ἔθηκεν Ἰάμβη κέδν' εἰδυῖα 195
 πηκτὸν ἔδος, καθύπερθε δ' ἐπ' ἀργύφειον βάλε κῶας.
 ἔνθα καθεζομένη προκατέσχετο χερσὶ καλύπτειν·
 δηρὸν δ' ἄφθογγος τετιημένη ἦστ' ἐπὶ δίφρου,
 οὐδέ τιν' οὔτ' ἔπει προσπτύσσετο οὔτε τι ἔργω,
 ἀλλ' ἀγέλαστος ἅπαστος ἐδητύος ἡδὲ ποτήτος 200
 ἦστο πόθῳ μινύθουσα βαθυζώνοιο θυγατρὸς,
 πρίν γ' ὅτε δὴ χλεύης μιν Ἰάμβη κέδν' εἰδυῖα
 πολλὰ παρὰ σκώπτουσ' ἐτρέψατο πότνιαν ἀγνήν
 μειδῆσαι γελάσαι τε καὶ ἴλαον σχεῖν θυμόν·
 ἡ δὴ οἱ καὶ ἔπειτα μεθύστερον εὖαδεν ὄργαις. 205
 τῇ δὲ δέπας Μετάνειρα δίδου μελιηδέος οἴνου
 πλήσας, ἡ δ' ἀνένευς· οὐ γὰρ θεμιτόν οἱ ἔφασκε
 πίνειν οἶνον ἐρυθρόν, ἄνωγε δ' ἄρ' ἄλφι καὶ ὕδωρ
 δοῦναι μίξασαν πιέμεν γληχῶνι τερείνῃ.
 ἡ δὲ κυκεῶ τεύξασα θεῶ πόρεν ὥς ἐκέλευε· 210
 δεξαμένη δ' ὁσίης ἔνεκεν πολυπότνια Δηὼ
 τῇσι δὲ μύθων ἦρχεν ἐϋζωνος Μετάνειρα·
 Χαῖρε γύναι, ἐπεὶ οὐ σε κακῶν ἅπ' ἔολπα τοκήων
 ἔμμεναι ἀλλ' ἀγαθῶν· ἐπὶ τοι πρόπει ὄμμασιν αἰδῶς
 καὶ χάρις, ὥς εἴ πέρ τε θεμιστοπόλων βασιλῆων. 215
 ἀλλὰ θεῶν μὲν δῶρα καὶ ἀχνύμενοί περ ἀνάγκη
 τέταμεν ἀνθρωποί· ἐπὶ γὰρ ζυγὸς αὐχένι κείται.
 νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ ἵκεο δεῦρο, παρέσσεται ὅσσα τ' ἐμοὶ περ.
 παῖδα δέ μοι τρέφε τόνδε, τὸν ὀψίγονον καὶ ἀελπτον
 ὦπασαν ἀθάνατοι, πολυάρετος δέ μοι ἔστιν. 220
 εἰ τὸν γ' ἐκθρέψαιο καὶ ἥβης μέτρον ἵκοιτο
 ἧ ῥά κέ τίς σε ἰδοῦσα γυναικῶν θηλυτεράων
 ζηλώσαι· τόσα κέν τοι ἀπὸ θρεπτήρια δοίην.
 Τὴν δ' αὖτε προσέειπεν εὐστέφανος Δημήτηρ·
 καὶ σὺ γύναι μάλα χαῖρε, θεοὶ δέ τοι ἐσθλὰ πόροισιν. 225
 παῖδα δέ τοι πρόφρων ὑποδέξομαι ὥς με κελεύεις·

I will raise him, nor do I expect a spell or the Undercutter
 to harm him through the negligence of his nurse.
 For I know a charm more cutting than the Woodcutter;
 I know a strong safeguard against baneful bewitching.” 230
 So speaking, she took the child to her fragrant breast
 with her divine hands. And his mother was glad at heart.
 Thus the splendid son of skillful Keleos, Demophoön,
 whom well-girt Metaneira bore, she nursed
 in the great halls. And he grew like a divinity, 235
 eating no food nor sucking [at a mother’s breast];
 [For daily well-crowned divine] Demeter anointed
 him with ambrosia like one born from a god
 and breathed sweetly on him, held close to her breast.
 At night, she would bury him like a brand in the fire’s might,
 unknown to his own parents. And great was their wonder 240
 as he grew miraculously fast; he was like the gods.
 She would have made him ageless and immortal,
 if well-girt Metaneira had not in her folly
 kept watch at night from her fragrant chamber
 and spied. But she shrieked and struck both thighs 245
 in fear for her child, much misled in her mind,
 and in her grief she spoke winged words.
 “Demophoön, my child, the stranger buries you
 deep in the fire, causing me woe and bitter cares.”
 Thus she spoke lamenting. The great goddess heard her. 250
 In anger at her, bright-crowned Demeter snatched
 from the flames with immortal hands the dear child
 Metaneira had borne beyond hope in the halls and,
 raging terribly at heart, cast him away from herself to the ground.
 At the same time she addressed well-girt Metaneira: 255
 “Mortals are ignorant and foolish, unable to foresee
 destiny, the good and the bad coming on them.
 You are incurably misled by your folly.
 Let the god’s oath, the implacable water of Styx, be witness,
 I would have made your child immortal and ageless 260
 forever; I would have given him unfailing honor.
 But now he cannot escape death and the death spirits.
 Yet unfailing honor will forever be his, because
 he lay on my knees and slept in my arms.

θρέψω, κοῦ μιν ἔολπα κακοφραδίῃσι τιθήνης
οὔτ' ἄρ' ἐπηλυσίῃ δηλήσεται οὔθ' ὑποταμόν·
οἶδα γὰρ ἀντίτομον μέγα φέρτερον ὑλοτόμοιο,
οἶδα δ' ἐπηλυσίης πολυπήμονος ἐσθλὸν ἐρυσμόν. 230

Ὦς ἄρα φωνήσασα θυώδεϊ δέξατο κόλπῳ
χερσίν τ' ἀθανάτησι· γεγήθει δὲ φρένα μήτηρ.
ὥς ἡ μὲν Κελεοῖο δαΐφρονος ἀγλαὸν υἱὸν
Δημοφώνθ', ὃν ἔτικτεν ἐύζωνος Μετάνειρα,
ἔτρεφεν ἐν μεγάροις· ὁ δ' ἄέξατο δαίμονι ἴσος 235
οὔτ' οὖν σῖτον ἔδων, οὐ θησάμενος

Δημήτηρ

χρίεσκ' ἀμβροσίῃ ὥς εἰ θεοῦ ἐκγεγαῶτα,
ἡδὺ καταπνεύουσα καὶ ἐν κόλποισιν ἔχουσα·
νύκτας δὲ κρύπτεσκε πυρὸς μένει ἡύτε δαλὸν
λάθρα φίλων γονέων· τοῖς δὲ μέγα θαῦμ' ἐτέτυκτο 240
ὥς προθαλῆς τελέθεσκε, θεοῖσι δὲ ἅντα ἐφκει.
καὶ κέν μιν ποίησεν ἀγήρων τ' ἀθάνατόν τε
εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ἀφραδίῃσιν ἐύζωνος Μετάνειρα
νύκτ' ἐπιτηρήσασα θυώδεος ἐκ θαλάμοιο
σκέψατο· κώκυσεν δὲ καὶ ἄμφω πλήξατο μηρῷ 245
δείσασ' ὧ περὶ παιδὶ καὶ ἀάσθη μέγα θυμῷ,
καὶ ῥ' ὀλοφυρομένη ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα·

Τέκνον Δημοφών ξείνῃ σε πυρὶ ἐνὶ πολλῷ
κρύπτει, ἔμοι δὲ γόνον καὶ κήδεα λυγρὰ τίθησιν.
Ὦς φάτ' ὀδυρομένη· τῆς δ' αἶε δῖα θεάων. 250

τῇ δὲ χολωσαμένη καλλιστέφανος Δημήτηρ
παῖδα φίλον, τὸν ἄελπτον ἐνὶ μεγάροις ἐτικτε,
χείρεσσ' ἀθανάτησιν ἀπὸ ἔο θῆκε πέδον δὲ
ἔξανελούσα πυρὸς θυμῷ κοτέσασα μάλ' αἰνῶς,
καὶ ῥ' ἄμυδις προσέειπεν ἐύζωνον Μετάνειραν· 255

Νῆϊδες ἀνθρωποὶ καὶ ἀφράδμονες οὔτ' ἀγαθοῖο
αἴσαν ἐπερχομένου προγνώμεναι οὔτε κακοῖο·
καὶ σὺ γὰρ ἀφραδίῃσι τεῆς νήκεστον ἀάσθης.
ἴστω γὰρ θεῶν ὄρκος ἀμείλικτον Στυγὸς ὕδωρ
ἀθάνατόν κέν τοι καὶ ἀγήραον ἡματα πάντα 260
παῖδα φίλον ποίησα καὶ ἄφθιτον ὥπασα τιμῇ·
νῦν δ' οὐκ ἔσθ' ὥς κεν θάνατον καὶ κῆρας ἀλύξαι.
τιμῇ δ' ἄφθιτος αἰὲν ἐπέσσεται οὔνεκα γούνων
ἡμετέρων ἐπέβῃ καὶ ἐν ἀγκοίνῃσιν ἱαυσεν.

In due time as the years come round for him, 265
 the sons of Eleusis will continue year after year
 to wage war and dread combat against each other.
 For I am honored Demeter, the greatest
 source of help and joy to mortals and immortals.
 But now let all the people build me a great temple 270
 with an altar beneath, under the sheer wall
 of the city on the rising hill above Kallichoron.
 I myself will lay down the rites so that hereafter
 performing due rites you may propitiate my spirit."
 Thus speaking, the goddess changed her size and appearance, 275
 thrusting off old age. Beauty breathed about her and
 from her sweet robes a delicious fragrance spread;
 a light beamed far out from the goddess's immortal skin,
 and her golden hair flowed over her shoulders.
 The well-built house flooded with radiance like lightning. 280
 She left the halls. At once Metaneira's knees buckled.
 For a long time she remained voiceless, forgetting
 to pick up her dear only son from the floor.
 But his sisters heard his pitiful voice and
 leapt from their well-spread beds. Then one took 285
 the child in her arms and laid him to her breast.
 Another lit the fire; a third rushed on delicate feet
 to rouse her mother from her fragrant chamber.
 Gathering about the gasping child, they bathed and
 embraced him lovingly. Yet his heart was not comforted, 290
 for lesser nurses and handmaids held him now.
 All night they tried to appease the dread goddess,
 shaking with fear. But when dawn appeared,
 they explained to wide-ruling Keleos exactly
 what the bright-crowned goddess Demeter commanded. 295
 Then he called to assembly his innumerable people
 and bid them build for fair-tressed Demeter
 a rich temple and an altar on the rising hill.
 Attentive to his speech, they obeyed at once and did
 as he prescribed. It grew as the goddess decreed. 300
 But once they finished and ceased their toil,
 each went off home. Then golden-haired Demeter
 remained sitting apart from all the immortals,
 wasting with desire for her deep-girt daughter.

ὥρῃσιν δ' ἄρα τῷ γε περιπλομένων ἐνιαυτῶν 265
 παῖδες Ἑλευσινίων πόλεμον καὶ φύλοπιν αἰνῆν
 αἰὲν ἐν ἀλλήλοισι συνάξουσ' ἤματα πάντα.
 εἰμὶ δὲ Δημήτηρ τιμάοχος, ἥ τε μέγιστον
 ἀθανάτοισι θνητοῖσιν τ' ὄναρ καὶ χάρμα τέτυκται.
 ἀλλ' ἄγε μοι νηὸν τε μέγαν καὶ βωμὸν ὑπ' αὐτῷ 270
 τευχόντων πᾶς δῆμος ὑπαὶ πόλιν αἰπύ τε τείχος
 Καλλιχόρου καθύπερθεν ἐπὶ προὔχοντι κολωνῷ·
 ὄργια δ' αὐτῇ ἐγὼν ὑποθήσομαι ὥς ἂν ἔπειτα
 εὐαγέως ἔρδοντες ἐμὸν νόον ἰλάσκοισθε.
 Ὡς εἰποῦσα θεὰ μέγεθος καὶ εἶδος ἄμειψε 275
 γῆρας ἀπωσαμένη, περὶ τ' ἀμφί τε κάλλος ἤητο·
 ὁδμὴ δ' ἱμερόεσσα θυηέντων ἀπὸ πέπλων
 σκίδνατο, τῆλε δὲ φέγγος ἀπὸ χροὸς ἀθανάτοιο
 λάμπε θεᾶς, ξανθαὶ δὲ κόμαι κατενήνοθεν ὦμους,
 αὐγῆς δ' ἐπλήσθη πυκινὸς δόμος ἀστεροπῆς ὥς. 280
 βῆ δὲ διὲκ μεγάρων, τῆς δ' αὐτίκα γούνατ' ἔλυντο,
 δηρὸν δ' ἄφθογγος γένετο χρόνον, οὐδέ τι παιδὸς
 μνήσατο τηλυγέτοιο ἀπὸ δαπέδου ἀνελέσθαι.
 τοῦ δὲ κασίγνηται φωνὴν ἐσάκουσαν ἐλεινῇν,
 καὶ δ' ἄρ' ἀπ' εὐστρώτων λεχέων θόρον· ἡ μὲν ἔπειτα 285
 παῖδ' ἀνὰ χερσὶν ἐλοῦσα ἐῷ ἐγκάτθετο κόλπῳ,
 ἡ δ' ἄρα πῦρ ἀνέκαι', ἡ δ' ἔσσυτο πόσος ἀπαλοῖσι
 μητέρ' ἀναστήσουσα θυώδεος ἐκ θαλάμοιο.
 ἀγρόμεναι δέ μιν ἀμφὶς ἐλούεον ἀσπαίροντα
 ἀμφαγαπαζόμεναι· τοῦ δ' οὐ μελίσσετο θυμός· 290
 χειρότεραι γὰρ δὴ μιν ἔχον τροφοὶ ἡδὲ τιθῆναι.
 Αἱ μὲν παννύχια κυδρὴν θεὸν ἰλάσκοντο
 δείματι παλλόμεναι· ἅμα δ' ἡοῖ φαινομένηφιν
 εὐρυβίῃ Κελεῷ νημερτέα μυθήσαντο,
 ὥς ἐπέτελλε θεὰ καλλιστέφανος Δημήτηρ. 295
 αὐτὰρ ὃ γ' εἰς ἀγορὴν καλέσας πολυπείρονα λαὸν
 ἦνωγ' ἡνύκῳ Δημήτερι πίονα νηὸν
 ποιῆσαι καὶ βωμὸν ἐπὶ προὔχοντι κολωνῷ.
 οἱ δὲ μάλ' αἰψ' ἐπίθοντο καὶ ἔκλυον αὐδήσαντος,
 τεῦχον δ' ὥς ἐπέτελλ'· ὃ δ' ἀέξετο δαίμονος αἴση. 300
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τέλεσαν καὶ ἐρώησαν καμάτοιο,
 βάν ῥ' ἱμεν οἴκαδ' ἕκαστος· ἀτὰρ ξανθὴ Δημήτηρ
 ἔνθα καθεζομένη μακάρων ἀπὸ νόσφιν ἀπάντων
 μίμνε πόθῳ μινύθουσα βαθυζώνοιο θυγατρὸς.

For mortals she ordained a terrible and brutal year 305
 on the deeply fertile earth. The ground released
 no seed, for bright-crowned Demeter kept it buried.
 In vain the oxen dragged many curved plows down
 the furrows. In vain much white barley fell on the earth.
 She would have destroyed the whole mortal race 310
 by cruel famine and stolen the glorious honor of gifts
 and sacrifices from those having homes on Olympus,
 if Zeus had not seen and pondered their plight in his heart.
 First he roused golden-winged Iris to summon
 fair-tressed Demeter, so lovely in form. 315
 Zeus spoke and Iris obeying the dark-clouded
 son of Kronos, raced swiftly between heaven and earth.
 She came to the citadel of fragrant Eleusis
 and found in her temple dark-robed Demeter.
 Addressing her, she spoke winged words: 320
 "Demeter, Zeus, the father, with his unfailing knowledge
 bids you rejoin the tribes of immortal gods.
 Go and let Zeus's word not remain unfulfilled."
 Thus she implored, but Demeter's heart was unmoved.
 Then the father sent in turn all the blessed immortals; 325
 one by one they kept coming and pleading
 and offered her many glorious gifts and whatever
 honors she might choose among the immortal gods.
 Yet not one could bend the mind and thought
 of the raging goddess, who harshly spurned their pleas. 330
 Never, she said, would she mount up to fragrant
 Olympus nor release the seed from the earth,
 until she saw with her eyes her own fair-faced child.
 When Zeus, heavy-thundering and mighty-voiced,
 heard this, he sent down the Slayer of Argos**** to Erebos 335
 with his golden staff to wheedle Hades with soft words
 and lead back holy Persephone from the misty gloom
 into the light to join the gods so that her mother
 might see her with her eyes and desist from anger.
 Hermes did not disobey. At once he left Olympus's height 340
 and plunged swiftly into the depths of the earth.
 He met lord Hades inside his dwelling,

**** Hermes

αἰνότατον δ' ἐνιαυτὸν ἐπὶ χθόνα πουλυβότειραν 305
 ποίησ' ἀνθρώποις καὶ κύντατον, οὐδέ τι γαῖα
 σπέριμ' ἀνίει· κρύπτει γὰρ ἐϋστέφανος Δημήτηρ.
 πολλὰ δὲ καμπύλ' ἄροτρα μάτην βόες εἵλκον ἀρούραις,
 πολλὸν δὲ κρεῖ λευκὸν ἐτώσιον ἔμπεσε γαίῃ.
 καὶ νύ κε πάμπαν ὄλεσσε γένος μερόπων ἀνθρώπων 310
 λιμοῦ ὑπ' ἀργαλέης, γεράων τ' ἐρικυδέα τιμὴν
 καὶ θυσιῶν ἡμερσεν Ὀλύμπια δώματ' ἔχοντας,
 εἰ μὴ Ζεὺς ἐνόησεν ἔῳ τ' ἐφράσσατο θυμῷ.
 Ἴριον δὲ πρῶτον χρυσόπτερον ὥρσε καλέσσαι
 Δήμητρ' ἠΰκομον πολυήρατον εἶδος ἔχουσαν. 315
 ὥς ἔφαθ'· ἡ δὲ Ζηνὶ κελαινεφείῃ Κρονίῳ
 πείθετο καὶ μεσσηγὺν διέδραμεν ὦκα πόδεσσιν.
 ἴκετο δὲ πτολίεθρον Ἑλευσῖνος θυοέσσης,
 εὔρεν δ' ἐν νηῷ Δημήτερα κυανόπεπλον,
 καὶ μιν φωνήσας' ἔπεα πτερόεντα προσηύδα· 320
 Δήμητερ καλέει σε πατήρ Ζεὺς ἄφθιτα εἰδὼς
 ἐλθέμεναι μετὰ φύλα θεῶν αἰειγενετῶν.
 ἄλλ' ἴθι, μῆδ' ἀτέλεστον ἐμὸν ἔπος ἐκ Διὸς ἔστω.
 Ὡς φάτο λισσομένη· τῆς δ' οὐκ ἐπεπείθετο θυμός.
 αὗτις ἔπειτα (πατὴρ) μάκαρας θεοὺς αἰὲν ἔοντας 325
 πάντας ἐπιπροΐαλλεν· ἀμοιβηδὶς δὲ κίοντες
 κίκλησκον καὶ πολλὰ δίδον περικαλλέα δῶρα,
 τιμάς θ' ἅς κεν ἔλοιτο μετ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν·
 ἄλλ' οὐ τις πείσαι δύνατο φρένας οὐδὲ νόημα 330
 θυμῷ χωομένης, στερεῶς δ' ἠναίνετο μύθους.
 οὐ μὲν γάρ ποτ' ἔφασκε θυώδεος Οὐλύμπιοιο
 πρὶν γ' ἐπιβήσεσθαι, οὐ πρὶν γῆς καρπὸν ἀνήσειν,
 πρὶν ἴδοι ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἐὴν εὐώπιδα κούρην.
 Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τό γ' ἄκουσε βαρύκτυπος εὐρύοπα Ζεὺς
 εἰς Ἑρεβος πέμψε χρυσόρραπιν Ἀργειφόντην, 335
 ὄφρ' Αἶδην μαλακοῖσι παραιφάμενος ἐπέεσσιν
 ἀγνὴν Περσεφόνειαν ἀπὸ ζόφου ἡερόεντος
 ἐς φάος ἐξαγάγοι μετὰ δαίμονας, ὄφρα ἑ μήτηρ
 ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδοῦσα μεταλλήξειε χόλοιο.
 Ἑρμῆς δ' οὐκ ἀπίθησεν, ἄφαρ δ' ὑπὸ κεύθεα γαίης 340
 ἐσσυμένως κατόρουσε λιπὼν ἔδος Οὐλύμπιοιο.
 τέτμε δὲ τὸν γε ἄνακτα δόμων ἔντοσθεν ἔοντα

reclining on a bed with his shy spouse, strongly reluctant
 through desire for her mother. [Still she, Demeter,
 was brooding on revenge for the deeds of the blessed gods]. 345
 The strong Slayer of Argos stood near and spoke:
 "Dark-haired Hades, ruler of the dead, Father Zeus
 bids me lead noble Persephone up from Erebus
 to join us, so that her mother might see her with her eyes
 and cease from anger and dread wrath against the gods. 350
 For she is devising a great scheme to destroy
 the helpless race of mortals born on earth,
 burying the seed beneath the ground and obliterating
 divine honors. Her anger is terrible, nor does she go
 among the gods but sits aloof in her fragrant temple, 355
 keeping to the rocky citadel of Eleusis."
 Thus he spoke and Aidoneus, lord of the dead, smiled
 with his brows, nor disobeyed king Zeus's commands.
 At once he urged thoughtful Persephone:
 "Go, Persephone, to the side of your dark-robed mother, 360
 keeping the spirit and temper in your breast benign.
 Do not be so sad and angry beyond the rest;
 in no way among immortals will I be an unsuitable spouse,
 myself a brother of father Zeus. And when you are there,
 you will have power over all that lives and moves, 365
 and you will possess the greatest honors among the gods.
 There will be punishment forevermore for those wrongdoers
 who fail to appease your power with sacrifices,
 performing proper rites and making due offerings."
 Thus he spoke and thoughtful Persephone rejoiced. 370
 Eagerly she leapt up for joy. But he gave her to eat
 a honey-sweet pomegranate seed, stealthily passing it
 around her, lest she once more stay forever
 by the side of revered Demeter of the dark robe.
 Then Aidoneus commander-to-many yoked 375
 his divine horses before the golden chariot.
 She mounted the chariot and at her side the strong
 Slayer of Argos took the reins and whip in his hands
 and dashed from the halls. The horses flew eagerly;
 swiftly they completed the long journey; not sea nor 380
 river waters, not grassy glens nor mountain peaks
 slowed the speed of the immortal horses,

ἦμενον ἐν λεχέεσσι σὺν αἰδοίῃ παρακοίτι
 πόλλ' ἀεκαζομένη μητρὸς πόθῳ † ἡδ' ἐπ' ἀτλήτων
 ἔργοις θεῶν μακάρων μητίσσετο βουλῇ† 345
 ἀγχού δ' ἰστάμενος προσέφη κρατὺς Ἀργειφόντης·
 Ἄϊδη κυανοχαῖτα καταφθιμένοισιν ἀνάσσων
 Ζεὺς με πατὴρ ἦνωγεν ἀγαυὴν Περσεφόνειαν
 ἔξαγαγεῖν Ἐρέβουσφι μετὰ σφέας, ὄφρα ἐ μήτηρ
 ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδοῦσα χόλου καὶ μήνιος αἰνῆς 350
 ἀθανάτοις παύσειεν· ἐπεὶ μέγα μήδεται ἔργον
 φθῖσαι φύλ' ἀμενηνὰ χαμαιγενέων ἀνθρώπων
 σπέρμ' ὑπὸ γῆς κρύπτουσα, καταφθινύθουσα δὲ τιμὰς
 ἀθανάτων· ἡ δ' αἰνὸν ἔχει χόλον, οὐδὲ θεοῖσι
 μίσγεται, ἀλλ' ἀπάνευθε θυώδεος ἔνδοθι νηοῦ 355
 ἦσται, Ἐλευσῖνος κραναὸν πτολίεθρον ἔχουσα.
 ὣς φάτο· μείδησεν δὲ ἄναξ ἐνέρων Ἀἰδωνεύς
 ὀφρύσιν, οὐδ' ἀπίθησε Διὸς βασιλῆος ἐφετμῆς.
 ἔσσυμένως δ' ἐκέλευσε δαΐφρονι Περσεφονείῃ·
 ἔρχεο Περσεφόνη παρὰ μητέρα κυανόπεπλον 360
 ἥπιον ἐν στήθεσσι μένος καὶ θυμὸν ἔχουσα,
 μηδὲ τι δυσθύμαινε λίην περιώσιον ἄλλων.
 οὗ τοι ἐν ἀθανάτοισιν ἀεικῆς ἔσσομ' ἀκοίτης
 αὐτοκασίγνητος πατρὸς Διὸς· ἔνθα δ' ἐοῦσα
 δεσπόσσεις πάντων ὅποσα ζῶει τε καὶ ἔρπει, 365
 τιμὰς δὲ σχήσησθα μετ' ἀθανάτοισι μεγίστας,
 τῶν δ' ἀδικησάντων τίσις ἔσσεται ἥματα πάντα
 οἳ κεν μὴ θυσίαισι τεδὸν μένος ἰλάσκωνται
 εὐαγέως ἔρδοντες ἐναίσιμα δῶρα τελοῦντες.
 ὣς φάτο· γήθησεν δὲ περίφρων Περσεφόνεια, 370
 καρπαλίμως δ' ἀνόρουσ' ὑπὸ χάρματος· αὐτὰρ ὃ γ' αὐτὰς
 ῥοιῆς κόκκον ἔδωκε φαγεῖν μελιηδέα λάθρη
 ἀμφὶ ἐ νωμήσας, ἵνα μὴ μένοι ἥματα πάντα
 αὐτὴ παρ' αἰδοίῃ Δημήτερι κυανοπέπλῳ.
 ἵππους δὲ προπάροιθεν ὑπὸ χρυσεόισιν ὄχεσφιν 375
 ἔντυεν ἀθανάτους πολυσημάντῳ Ἀἰδωνεύς.
 ἡ δ' ὀχέων ἐπέβη, παρὰ δὲ κρατὺς Ἀργειφόντης
 ἡνία καὶ μάστιγα λαβὼν μετὰ χερσὶ φίλῃσι
 σεῦε δι' ἐκ μεγάρων· τῷ δ' οὐκ ἄκοντε πετέσθην.
 ῥίμφα δὲ μακρὰ κέλευθα διήνυσαν, οὐδὲ θάλασσα 380
 οὐθ' ὕδωρ ποταμῶν οὐτ' ἄγχεα ποιήεντα
 ἵππων ἀθανάτων οὐτ' ἄκριες ἔσχεθον ὁρμήν,

slicing the deep air as they flew above these places.
 He brought them to a halt where rich-crowned Demeter
 waited before the fragrant temple. With one look she darted 385
 like a maenad down a mountain shaded with woods.
 On her side Persephone, [seeing] her mother's [radiant face],
 [left chariot and horses,] and leapt down to run
 [and fall on her neck in passionate embrace].
 [While holding her dear child in her arms], her [heart 390
 suddenly sensed a trick. Fearful, she] drew back
 from [her embrace and at once inquired:]
 "My child, tell me, you [did not taste] food [while below?]
 Speak out [and hide nothing, so we both may know.]
 [For if not], ascending [from miserable Hades], 395
 you will dwell with me and your father, the
 dark-clouded [son of Kronos], honored by all the gods.
 But if [you tasted food], returning beneath [the earth,]
 you will stay a third part of the seasons [each year],
 but two parts with myself and the other immortals. 400
 When the earth blooms in spring with all kinds
 of sweet flowers, then from the misty dark you will
 rise again, a great marvel to gods and mortal men.
 By what guile did the mighty Host-to-Many deceive you?"
 Then radiant Persephone replied to her in turn: 405
 "I will tell you the whole truth exactly, Mother.
 The Slayer of Argos came to bring fortunate news
 from my father, the son of Kronos, and the other gods
 and lead me from Erebos so that seeing me with your eyes
 you would desist from your anger and dread wrath 410
 at the gods. Then I leapt up for joy, but he stealthily
 put in my mouth a food honey-sweet, a pomegranate seed,
 and compelled me against my will and by force to taste it.
 For the rest—how seizing me by the shrewd plan of my father,
 Kronos's son, he carried me off into the earth's depths— 415
 I shall tell and elaborate all that you ask.
 We were all in the beautiful meadow—
 Leukippê; Phaino; Elektra; and Ianthê;
 Melitê; Iachê; Rhodeia; and Kallirhoê;
 Melibosis; Tychê; and flower-faced Okyrhoê; 420
 Khryseis; Iancira; Akastê; Admetê;
 Rhodopê; Plouto; and lovely Kalypso;

ἀλλ' ὑπὲρ αὐτῶν βαθὺν ἡέρα τέμνον ἰόντες.
 στήσε δ' ἄγων ὅθι μίμνεν εὐστέφανος Δημήτηρ
 νηϊο προπάροιθε θυώδεος· ἡ δὲ ἰδοῦσα 385
 ἥϊξ' ἥϊτε μαινὰς ὄρος κάτα δάσκιον ὕλη.
 Περσεφόνη δ' ἐτέρ[ωθεν ἐπεὶ ἴδεν ὄμματα καλὰ]
 μητρὸς ἐῆς κατ' [ἄρ' ἢ γ' ὄχεα προλιπούσα καὶ ἵππους]
 ἄλτο θέει[ν, δειρῇ δέ οἱ ἔμπεσεν ἀμφιχυθεῖσα·]
 τῇ δὲ [φίλῃν ἐτι παῖδα ἐῆς μετὰ χερσὶν ἐχούσῃ] 390
 α[ἷψα δόλον θυμός τιν' οἶσατο, τρέσσε δ' ἄρ' αἰνῶς]
 πα[υ]ομ[ένη φιλότητος, ἄφαρ δ' ἐρεείνετο μύθος·]
 Τέκνον μή ῥά τί μαι σ[ύ] γε πάσσαο νέρθεν ἐοῦσα]
 βρώμης; ἐξαύδα, [μὴ κεῦθ', ἵνα εἶδομεν ἄμφω·]
 ὧς μὲν γάρ κ' ἀνιοῦσα π[α]ρὰ στυγεροῦ Ἀΐδαο] 395
 καὶ παρ' ἐμοὶ καὶ πατρὶ κελ[αινεφεί] Κρονίωνι]
 ναιετάοις πάντεσσι τετιμ[ένη ἀθανάτοι]σιν.
 εἰ δέ, πᾶσα πάλιν <σύ γ'> ἰοῦσ' ὑπ[ὸ] κεύθεσι γαίης]
 οἰκήσεις ὠρέων τρίτατον μέρ[ος εἰς ἐνιαυτόν,]
 τὰς δὲ δύο παρ' ἐμοὶ τε καὶ [ἄλλοις ἀθανά]τοισιν. 400
 ὁππότε δ' ἀνθεσι γαῖ' εὐώδε[σιν] ἡαρινο[ῖσι]
 παντοδαποῖς θάλλει, τότε ἀπὸ ζόφου ἡερόεντος
 αὐτὶς ἄνει μέγα θαῦμα θεοῖς θνητοῖς τ' ἀνθρώποις.
 καὶ τίني σ' ἐξαπάτησε δόλῳ κρατερ[ὸς πολυδ]έγμων;
 Τὴν δ' αὖ Περσεφόνη περικαλλῆς ἀντίον ἡῦδα· 405
 τοιγὰρ ἐγὼ τοι μήτερ ἐρέω νημερτέα πάντα·
 εὐτέ μοι ἄγγελος ἦλθ' ἐριούνιος Ἀργειφόντης
 παρ πατέρος Κρονίδαο καὶ ἄλλων οὐρανίωνων
 ἐλθεῖν ἐξ Ἑρέβευς, ἵνα μ' ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδοῦσα
 λήξαις ἀθανάτοισι χόλου καὶ μήνιος αἰνῆς, 410
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν ἀνόρουσ' ὑπὸ χάρματος, αὐτὰρ ὁ λάθρη
 ἔμβαλέ μοι ῥοιῆς κόκκον, μελιηδέ' ἐδωδήν,
 ἄκουσαν δὲ βίῃ με προσηνάγκασσε πάσασθαι.
 ὧς δέ μ' ἀναρπάξας Κρονίδεω πυκινὴν διὰ μῆτιν
 ὦχετο πατρὸς ἐμοῖο φέρων ὑπὸ κεύθεα γαίης 415
 ἐξερέω καὶ πάντα διῆξομαι ὧς ἐρεείνεις.
 ἡμεῖς μὲν μάλα πᾶσαι ἂν' ἱμερτόν λειμώνα,
 Λευκίππη Φαινῶ τε καὶ Ἥλεκτρη καὶ Ἴανθη
 καὶ Μελίτη Ἰάχη τε Ῥόδειά τε Καλλιρόη τε
 Μηλόβοσίς τε Τύχη τε καὶ Ὠκυρόη καλυκῶπις 420
 Χρυσήϊς τ' Ἰάνειρά τ' Ἀκάστη τ' Ἀδμήτη τε
 καὶ Ῥοδόπη Πλουτώ τε καὶ ἱμερόεσσα Καλυψὼ

Styx; Ourania; and fair Galaxaura; Pallas,
 rouser of battles; and Artemis, sender of arrows—
 playing and picking lovely flowers with our hands, 425
 soft crocus mixed with irises and hyacinth,
 rosebuds and lilies, a marvel to see, and the
 narcissus that wide earth bore like a crocus.
 As I joyously plucked it, the ground gaped from beneath,
 and the mighty lord, Host-to-Many, rose from it 430
 and carried me off beneath the earth in his golden chariot
 much against my will. And I cried out at the top of my voice.
 I speak the whole truth, though I grieve to tell it.”
 Then all day long, their minds at one, they soothed
 each other’s heart and soul in many ways, 435
 embracing fondly, and their spirits abandoned grief,
 as they gave and received joy between them.
 Hekate of the delicate veil drew near them
 and often caressed the daughter of holy Demeter;
 from that time this lady served her as chief attendant. 440
 To them Zeus, heavy-thundering and mighty-voiced,
 sent as mediator fair-tressed Rheia to summon
 dark-robed Demeter to the tribes of gods; he promised
 to give her what honors she might choose among the gods.
 He agreed his daughter would spend one-third 445
 of the revolving year in the misty dark and two-thirds
 with her mother and the other immortals.
 So he spoke and the goddess did not disobey his commands.
 She darted swiftly down the peaks of Olympus
 and arrived where the Rarian plain, once life-giving 450
 udder of earth, now giving no life at all, stretched idle
 and utterly leafless. For the white barley was hidden
 by the designs of lovely-ankled Demeter. Yet as spring came on,
 the fields would soon ripple with long ears of grain;
 and the rich furrows would grow heavy on the ground 455
 with grain to be tied with bands into sheaves.
 There she first alighted from the barren air.
 Mother and daughter were glad to see each other
 and rejoiced at heart. Rheia of the delicate veil then said:
 “Come, child, Zeus, heavy-thundering and mighty-voiced, 460
 summons you to rejoin the tribes of the gods;
 he has offered to give what honors you choose among them.

καὶ Στυξ Οὐρανίη τε Γαλαξάυρη τ' ἐρατεινὴ
 Παλλὰς τ' ἐγρεμάχη καὶ Ἄρτεμις ἰοχέαιρα
 παίζομεν ἥδ' ἄνθεα δρέπομεν χεῖρεσσ' ἐρόεντα, 425
 μίγδα κρόκον τ' ἄγανδον καὶ ἀγαλλίδας ἥδ' ὑάκινθον
 καὶ ῥοδέας κάλυκας καὶ λείρια, θαῦμα ἰδέσθαι,
 νάρκισσόν θ' ὃν ἔφυσ' ὥς περ κρόκον εὐρεῖα χθών.
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ δρεπόμεν περὶ χάσματι, γαῖα δ' ἔνερθε
 χώρησεν, τῇ δ' ἔκθορ' ἀναξ κρατερός πολυδέγμων. 430
 βῆ δὲ φέρων ὑπὸ γαῖαν ἐν ἄρμασι χρυσείοισι
 πόλλ' ἀεκαζομένην, ἐβόησα δ' ἄρ' ὄρθια φωνῇ.
 ταυτὰ τοι ἀχνυμένη περ ἀληθέα πάντ' ἀγορεύω.

Ὡς τότε μὲν πρόπαν ἤμαρ ὁμόφρονα θυμὸν ἔχουσαι
 πολλὰ μάλ' ἀλλήλων κραδίην καὶ θυμὸν ἱαίνον 435
 ἀμφαγαπαζόμεναι, ἀχέων δ' ἀπεπαύετο θυμός.
 γηθοσύνας δὲ δέχοντο παρ' ἀλλήλων ἔδιδ[όν τε.]
 τῇσιν δ' ἐγγύθεν ἦλθ' Ἑκάτη λιπαροκρήδεμνος,
 πολλὰ δ' ἄρ' ἀμφαγάπησε κόρην Δημήτερος ἀγνῆς·
 ἐκ τοῦ οἱ πρόπολος καὶ ὀπάων ἔπλετ' ἄνασσα. 440
 ταῖς δὲ μετάγγελον ἦκε βαρὺκτυπος εὐρύοπα Ζεὺς
 Ῥεῖην ἠΰκομον Δημήτερα κυανόπεπλον
 ἀξέμεναι μετὰ φῦλα θεῶν, ὑπέδεκτο δὲ τιμὰς
 δωσέμεν, ἅς κεν ἔλοιτο μετ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι·
 νεῦσε δὲ οἱ κούρην ἔτεος περιτελλομένοιο 445
 τὴν τριτάτην μὲν μοῖραν ὑπὸ ζόφον ἡερόεντα,
 τὰς δὲ δύο παρὰ μητρὶ καὶ ἄλλοις ἀθανάτοισιν.
 ὥς ἔφατ', οὐδ' ἀπίθησε θεὰ Διὸς ἀγγελιάων.
 ἐσσυμένως δ' ἦῖξε κατ' Οὐλύμποιο καρήνων,
 εἰς δ' ἄρα Ῥάριον Ἴξε, φερέσβιον οὔθαρ ἀρούρης 450
 τὸ πρὶν, ἀτὰρ τότε γ' οὐ τι φερέσβιον, ἀλλὰ ἔκηλον
 εἰστήκει πανάφυλλον· ἔκευθε δ' ἄρα κρῖ λευκὸν
 μῆδεσι Δήμητρος καλλισφύρου· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
 μέλλεν ἄφαρ ταναοῖσι κομήσειν ἀσταχέεσσιν
 ἦρος ἀεξομένοιο, πέδω δ' ἄρα πίνες ὄγμοι 455
 βρισέμεν ἀσταχύων, τὰ δ' ἐν ἐλλεδανοῖσι δεδέσθαι.
 ἐνθ' ἐπέβη πρῶτιστον ἀπ' αἰθέρος ἀτρυγέτοιο·
 ἀσπασίως δ' ἶδον ἀλλήλας, κεχάρηντο δὲ θυμῷ.
 τὴν δ' ὦδε προσέειπε Ῥέη λιπαροκρήδεμνος·

Δεῦρο τέκος, καλέει σε βαρὺκτυπος εὐρύοπα Ζεὺς 460
 ἐλθέμεναι μετὰ φῦλα θεῶν, ὑπέδεκτο δὲ τιμὰς
 [δωσέμεν, ἅς κεν ἔλοιο] μετ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσι.

He agreed that his daughter would spend one-third
 of the revolving year in the misty dark, and two-thirds
 with her mother and the other immortals. 465
 He guaranteed it would be so with a nod of his head.
 So come, my child, obey me; do not rage overmuch
 and forever at the dark-clouded son of Kronos.
 Now make the grain grow fertile for humankind."
 So Rheia spoke, and rich-crowned Demeter did not disobey. 470
 At once she sent forth fruit from the fertile fields
 and the whole wide earth burgeoned with leaves
 and flowers. She went to the kings who administer law,
 Triptolemos and Diokles, driver of horses, mighty
 Eumolpos and Keleos, leader of the people, and revealed 475
 the conduct of her rites and taught her Mysteries to all of them,
 holy rites that are not to be transgressed, nor pried into, 478
 nor divulged. For a great awe of the gods stops the voice.
 Blessed is the mortal on earth who has seen these rites, 480
 but the uninitiate who has no share in them never
 has the same lot once dead in the dreary darkness.
 When the great goddess had founded all her rites,
 the goddesses left for Olympus and the assembly of the other gods.
 There they dwell by Zeus delighting-in-thunder, inspiring 485
 awe and reverence. Highly blessed is the mortal
 on earth whom they graciously favor with love.
 For soon they will send to the hearth of his great house
 Ploutos, the god giving abundance to mortals.
 But come, you goddesses, dwelling in the town of 490
 fragrant Eleusis, and seagirt Paros, and rocky Antron,
 revered Deo, mighty giver of seasons and glorious gifts,
 you and your very fair daughter Persephone,
 for my song grant gladly a living that warms the heart.
 And I shall remember you and a new song as well. 495

